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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DAILY CABLE

Tuesday September 14, 1976

CI NIDC 76-216C



NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION

Unauthorized Disclosure Subject to Criminal Sanctions

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Top Secret

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Approved For Release 2007/03/09 : CIA-RDP79T00975A029300010022-2

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National Intelligence Daily Cable for Tuesday, September 14, 1976.

The NID Cable is for the purpose of informing senior US officials.

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LEBANON: Situation Report

25X1 [] Fatah leader Salah Khalaf, despite a public denial, may have met with Syrian officials last Saturday in central Lebanon. Khalaf, considered to be number-two in Fatah next to Yasir Arafat, is the leader of a militant faction that opposes Arafat's policy of compromise on the question of Syria's military presence in Lebanon.

25X1 [] Khalaf's denial may only mean that he was dissatisfied with the results of the meeting. The Beirut press has speculated that the Syrians refused to discuss a troop withdrawal, called for reactivating the Syrian-Palestinian reconciliation accord that both sides signed on July 29 but never implemented, and threatened to seek a military solution if the Palestinians did not accept soon Damascus' proposals for a political settlement.

25X1 [] Khalaf issued an apparent rejoinder yesterday by saying that Palestinians were prepared for a dialogue, but not on terms that made them "slaves of Syria."

25X1 [] Palestinian spokesmen are accusing Syria of conducting reconnaissance missions and moving troops toward Palestinian and leftist positions in the mountains east of Beirut.

25X1 [] Various Lebanese political leaders who are shuttling to Damascus are also visiting Cairo for consultations. The Egyptians recently have been attempting to play a more direct role in the Lebanese talks, having failed to limit Syria's influence by other means.

25X1 [] Lebanese Prime Minister Karami, who held unpublicized talks with Syrian President Asad on Sunday, flew to Cairo yesterday to meet with Egyptian President Sadat. Another traditional Muslim leader, Saib Salam, conferred with Asad yesterday. Both Salam and Christian Phalanges leader Jumayyil are expected in Cairo today. []

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SOUTH AFRICA: Situation Report

25X1 [] The three-day work boycott that began yesterday in the black townships of Soweto and Alexandra near Johannesburg has so far been successful. Absenteeism in Johannesburg businesses was reported at about 70 percent, with 90 percent of the city's bus drivers staying away.

25X1 [] The US consulate reports that the boycott was well organized, apparently by student leaders eager to show their new power.

25X1 [] Although the disturbances in the Cape Town vicinity have subsided, leaflets reportedly are circulating in both colored (mulatto) and black residential areas calling for a work boycott on Thursday and Friday and threatening reprisals against those who do not cooperate. Some whites in Cape Town have been forming vigilante groups to protect homes and schools, increasing the prospects for further violence in sections where whites and coloreds have long lived side-by-side in relative harmony.

25X1 [] Prime Minister Vorster, in an address on Sunday night commemorating his 10 years in office, made it clear once again that blacks would not be given any political representation in South Africa and that their political rights could be exercised only in the tribal homelands. At the same time, Vorster reiterated that the newly formed cabinet council--a strictly advisory body--would serve the mutual interests of coloreds, Indians, and whites. []

USSR-CHINA: Soviet Reaction to Mao's Death

25X1 [] Yesterday two Politburo members, First Deputy Premier Mazurov--who may have been standing in for ailing Premier Kosygin--and Foreign Minister Gromyko went to the Chinese embassy in Moscow to sign the condolence book for Mao Tse-tung.

25X1 [] They were accompanied by Deputy Premier Arkhipov and Deputy Foreign Minister Ilichev, Moscow's chief negotiator at the stalemated border talks, among others. Subsequently, representatives of the Union of Soviet Friendship Societies and of the Soviet-Chinese Friendship Society also signed the book.

25X1 [] Moscow's response was correct but not necessarily conciliatory. It was the highest-level delegation the Soviets have ever sent to offer condolences upon the death of a Chinese leader.

25X1 [] Mazurov was the only Politburo member to sign the condolence book for Premier Chou En-lai last January. Mazurov and Gromyko are both primarily associated with the government, not the party, but in their press coverage of the event, the Soviets noted the party as well as the governmental ties of these Politburo members.

25X1 [] Soviet central press coverage of China since Mao's death has been confined to a comment in *Pravda* "International Week" on Sunday; it said merely that the Western press had been carrying contradictory predictions about the impact of Mao's death on China's internal developments and on its relations with the US and the USSR.

25X1 [] Other, less authoritative Soviet propaganda organs are still carrying some material critical of Chinese foreign policy, but on Thursday the nominally unofficial Radio Peace and Progress dropped two regular features that are almost invariably critical of China. One was replaced by a commentary recalling all that the Soviets have done for the Chinese and reiterating Moscow's standard conditions for an improvement in relations.

25X1 [] The Chinese have rejected the message of condolence on Mao's death sent last week by the Soviet Communist Party, according to a press report from Peking. A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman was quoted today as saying that the message was unacceptable because the Soviet and Chinese parties do not have formal relations.

YUGOSLAVIA: Hijackers

25X1 [] Belgrade's reaction to the hijacking by Croat emigres last Friday is rooted in its deep concern about the impact of antiregime terrorist activity after Tito dies.

25X1 [] The Yugoslav press alleges that the hijackers were supported financially and directed by "conservative circles" in the US, and denounces the alleged slanders of Yugoslavia in the emigre propaganda published by US media. Belgrade papers also accuse the US government of failing to control the activities of anti-Titoist emigres in the US.

25X1 [] Such allegations and diplomatic demarches are normal Yugoslav reactions to any increase in the activities of emigres. The virulence of the current campaign may reflect fear that the hijacking may have been triggered by Belgrade's announcement on Friday that President Tito is ailing.

25X1 [] The Yugoslavs may also believe that the condemnations 25X1 of the US will deflect Western criticism of their own recent treatment of the international terrorist "Carlos," who was not detained when he was in Belgrade last week. []

IRAQ-KUWAIT: New Tension

25X1 [] //The Kuwaiti foreign minister told the US ambassador yesterday that small numbers of Iraqi troops late last week made three shallow incursions into Kuwaiti territory. An earlier report from a Kuwaiti official said that Baghdad had moved additional military forces to Zubayr and to Satwan on the disputed Iraq-Kuwait border. We cannot confirm the alleged Iraqi troops movements.//

25X1 [] The foreign minister said his government has moved troops to the area of the incursions to block the Iraqis from penetrating any further into Kuwaiti territory.

25X1 [] Baghdad's reported military moves may be part of a campaign to encourage leftists and Palestinians in Kuwait to agitate against the Emir's recent dissolution of the Kuwaiti National Assembly and imposition of tough curbs on the press.

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Baghdad's news media have alleged that the Emir's moves were intended to destroy the Palestinian movement in Kuwait.

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[] The Iraqis may also believe the time is ripe to wring concessions from Kuwait on the delineation of their disputed border. Baghdad may see the Kuwaitis, currently preoccupied with internal affairs, as particularly vulnerable to Iraqi military intimidation.

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[] Kuwait is concerned about Baghdad's intentions. The Kuwaiti ambassador in Baghdad made representations to the Iraqi foreign minister, who claimed to be unaware of any incidents on the border.

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[] Over the weekend, the Kuwaiti cabinet reviewed the new strains in relations with Iraq, which have been troubled since Iraqi troops seized a small strip of Kuwaiti territory early in 1973. The Kuwaiti foreign minister has canceled plans to attend a meeting in Damascus of the Arab foreign ministers' committee that is to prepare for the coming Arab summit. []

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YUGOSLAVIA: Tito's Health

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[] Belgrade's announcement yesterday that President Tito will not be able to see Denmark's Queen Margrethe in late September seems intended, at least in part, to squelch speculation that his current indisposition is a diplomatic one.

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[] Tito contributed to such an interpretation by appearing several times with Romanian President Ceausescu on Friday--after Paris had been informed that President Giscard's visit to Belgrade would have to be postponed because Tito was ill.

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[] The announcement yesterday said that Tito would need several weeks of "indispensable rest." Tito's medical history includes one serious bout with a liver ailment and a gall bladder operation in 1951. []

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[] Tito could be suffering from hepatitis. He could have contracted the disease during his stay in Sri Lanka last month or as a by-product of the extensive blood transfusions that are occasionally used in treatment of his minor strokes.

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USSR: Tikhonov

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[] Nikolay Tikhonov--who was appointed first deputy premier on September 2--is being treated in the Soviet media as though he had full Politburo status, but he has not yet been formally promoted.

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[] In the photographs of the leaders at the airport to welcome General Secretary Brezhnev back from Alma Ata on September 5, he is shown in the front with full members of the Politburo, while candidates, such as Russian Republic Premier Mikhail Solomentsev, are relegated to the second row.

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[] The other first deputy premier, Kirill Mazurov, is already a Politburo member, and Tikhonov probably will soon be promoted. The Supreme Soviet will reportedly meet next month to approve the five-year plan. A Central Committee plenum immediately preceding its session would be an appropriate forum for the announcement of Tikhonov's promotion.

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CIEC: Talks Resume

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[] //The Conference on International Economic Cooperation resumes with a week-long working session in Paris today.//

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[] //The talks appeared to be at an impasse following a breakdown in July over the agendas for the meetings this month. The dispute was over the wording of the items on debt relief for developing states and the protection of the "purchasing power" of their earnings from raw materials exports.//

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[redacted] //At that time the eight industrialized participants contended that the 19 developing and oil-exporting states were seeking a prior commitment on the outcome of the conference and the 19, in response, broke off the talks.//

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[redacted] //After consulting with other participants, the Canadian and Venezuelan co-chairmen agreed last weekend on a formula for the agenda that has only papered over basic differences. The prospects for progress this week are thus bleak.//

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[redacted] //The ministerial review session, scheduled for December, may require substantive concessions by the industrialized states if an agreement is to be reached. Coordination of policies among the industrialized countries will be especially difficult prior to the ministerial meeting, however, because of their reluctance to take firm positions until after the US and West German elections.//

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[redacted] //Most of the European participants do not want the talks to collapse and some--notably the Dutch and the Scandinavians--are willing to consider favorably the developing countries' demands concerning debt relief.//

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[redacted] //The developing states may try to exploit the differences among the industrialized participants by again threatening to break off the dialogue. [redacted]

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[redacted]

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